

Introduced by Senators Simitian, Alquist, and Figueroa

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Cohn, Coto, Laird, Lieber, Ruskin, Salinas, and Torrico)

February 22, 2005

An act to add Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 100700) to Part 12 of Division 10 of the Public Utilities Code, and to add Section 9250.6 to the Vehicle Code, relating to transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 680, as introduced, Simitian. Congestion management and transportation improvements: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority.

Existing law creates the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority with various powers and duties relative to transportation planning, programming, and services. Existing law provides for the imposition by air districts and certain other local agencies of fees on the registration of motor vehicles in certain areas of the state that are in addition to the basic vehicle registration fee collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

This bill would authorize the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority to impose an annual fee of up to \$5 on each motor vehicle registered within Santa Clara County for a program for the management of traffic congestion and for specified street, road, expressway, and transit purposes, commencing on July 1, 2006. The bill would require a program with performance measures and a budget before the fee may be imposed. The bill would require the authority to have an independent audit performed on the program and to provide its findings to the Legislature. The bill would require the Department of Motor Vehicles, if requested, to collect the fee and distribute the proceeds, after deduction of specified administrative costs, to the

authority. The bill would require that the fees collected may only be used to pay for programs bearing a relationship or benefit to the persons paying the fee, and would require the board of directors of the authority to make a specified finding of fact by a 2/3 vote. The fee would terminate on July 1, 2014.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 100700) is added to Part 12 of Division 10 of the Public Utilities Code, to read:

CHAPTER 10. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT FEE

100700. (a) The authority may impose a fee of not to exceed five dollars (\$5) on each motor vehicle registered within Santa Clara County. The authority may impose the fee only if the board of directors adopts a resolution, by a two-thirds vote, providing both for the fee and a corresponding program for the management of traffic congestion through the construction and improvement of specific streets, roads, expressways, and transit improvements within the county, as set forth in this chapter. This resolution shall include a finding of fact that the projects and programs to be funded by the fee have a relationship or benefit to the persons who will be paying the fee.

100701. A fee imposed by the authority pursuant to Section 100700 shall not become operative until July 1, 2006, and shall terminate on July 1, 2014, unless reauthorized by the Legislature.

100702. (a) The fee revenue received by the authority pursuant to Section 9250.6 of the Vehicle Code shall be used for purposes of congestion management and construction and improvement of streets, roads, and expressways within Santa Clara County, as specified in the county's congestion management program adopted pursuant to Section 65089 of the Government Code, and transit improvements parallel to congested highway corridors as specified in the Caltrain Joint Powers Board Rapid Rail Program. The purpose of the congestion management program is to address the problem of

1 motor vehicle congestion. Not more than 5 percent of the fee
2 revenue received by the authority shall be used for administrative
3 costs of the authority in administering this chapter. The costs
4 incurred by the Department of Motor Vehicles in collecting the
5 fee pursuant to Section 9250.6 of the Vehicle Code shall not be
6 counted toward that administrative cost limitation.

7 (b) The fee revenue received by the authority shall be used to
8 pay for projects or programs with a relationship or benefit to the
9 persons that are paying the fee.

10 100703. Prior to the imposition of the fee pursuant to Section
11 100700, the board of directors shall adopt a specific program for
12 expenditure of fee revenues, with performance measures and a
13 budget. The program shall be adopted by the board of directors at
14 a noticed public hearing.

15 100704. The authority shall arrange for an independent audit
16 to be conducted on the specific program adopted pursuant to
17 Section 100703, with the auditor's review and report to be
18 provided to the board of directors at a noticed public hearing.

19 100705. The authority shall provide a report to the Legislature
20 on the specific program adopted pursuant to Section 100703 by
21 July 1, 2014.

22 SEC. 2. Section 9250.6 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

23 9250.6. (a) The department shall, if requested by the Santa
24 Clara Valley Transportation Authority, collect the fee imposed
25 pursuant to Section 100700 of the Public Utilities Code upon the
26 registration or renewal of registration of any motor vehicle
27 registered in the County of Santa Clara, except those vehicles
28 that are expressly exempted under this code from the payment of
29 registration fees.

30 (b) The authority shall pay for the initial setup and
31 programming costs identified by the Department of Motor
32 Vehicles through a direct contract with the department. Any
33 direct contract payment by the authority shall be repaid, with no
34 restriction on the use of funds, to the authority as part of the
35 initial revenues distributed pursuant to subdivision (c).

36 (c) After deducting all nonreimbursed costs incurred by the
37 department pursuant to this section, the department shall
38 distribute the revenues to the authority.

O